

GI SPECIAL 5F13:

**ENOUGH;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



US soldiers signal for medical evacuation helicopters to land after U.S. soldiers were killed when a bridge was destroyed by a vehicle bomber June 10, 2007, outside Mahmoudiya, Iraq. American soldiers were crushed in the rubble. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris).

**“You Know, The Latest
Troop Surge - I Thought I
Was Going To Vomit”
Corbin Had Spent A Year In Iraq:**

“I’m Very Proud Of The Anti-War Movement Because I Want It To End And I Hate It,” She Said Angrily

By Matt Mireles, Current Magazine, Summer 2007 [Excerpts]

At the University of Texas at Austin, Starr Renee-Corbin, an Army Captain and Iraq veteran [said]: “In 2005, I started college and I had a very idealistic view of how it was going to be. I just thought that I would move on, that the Army was just a chapter in my life and my goal was to not let Iraq be this milestone in my life; I didn’t want my life to be defined by ‘Before Iraq’ and ‘After Iraq,’ “ she said.

“One thing I wasn’t really mentally prepared for was the protests, the outspoken criticism of the war, the soldiers... Really, it was just constantly in my face when all I really wanted to do was forget about it.”

And it wasn’t even that she was against protesting so much as she hated the memories they triggered. In Iraq, she had dreamed so wistfully of civilian life, of Texas, that after so much remembering and wishful thinking, home stopped being associated with anything real. It became a symbol of innocence, the paradise where nothing had been touched by Iraq.

“It’s so child-like the way you think;’ she laughed, “but it’s really true.”

And when she did finally get back, a Master’s program in Women’s Studies at UT sounded like the perfect way to tune out and start over. But by the time she started school in the fall of 2005, there was no escaping it: Operation Iraqi Freedom was all over CNN and the op-ed pages of the Daily Texan.

Corbin had spent a year in Iraq. Six months into the deployment, she got plucked from her job as a communications planner inside Iraq’s fortified Green Zone to assist the Commanding General of US forces in an area just outside of Baghdad.

Desk jockey no more, she tried to ease into her role as combat chauffer. Ambushes and IED’s were par for the course, and with them came funerals - lots of funerals.

Like many Iraq veterans, Corbin now feels torn about the war. Her initial visions of spreading freedom and democracy turned to bitterness when her friends and fellow soldiers started dying.

The Iraqis hate us, she often thought, we have no business here.

She left Iraq firmly opposed to the war, but now that she’s back in Texas, she can’t bring herself to publicly speak out against the war.

“I’m very proud of the anti-war movement because I want it to end and I hate it;” she said angrily.

“You know, the latest troop surge - I thought I was going to vomit.”

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Marine Killed In Anbar

June 13, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070613-11

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West was killed June 12 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Diyala

June 15, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070615-03

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed as a result of injuries sustained from small arms fire while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Thursday.

Baghdad IEDs Kill Two U.S. Troops, Two More Wounded

June 13, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070613-09

BAGHDAD — One Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed when a roadside bomb detonated during combat operations in an eastern section of Baghdad June 11.

In a separate incident, one MND-B Soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their vehicle struck an IED in southern Baghdad in the early morning hours of June 12.

Waco Marine Killed In Combat In Iraq

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

June 14, 2007 The Associated Press

Waco -- The Defense Department said a 21-year-old Marine from Waco has been killed in combat in the Al Anbar province of Iraq.

Military officials announced Thursday that Lance Cpl. Johnny Ray Strong died Tuesday.

Relatives said Strong's mother tried to stop him from going to Iraq with his Marine Corps buddies.

His grandmother, Minerva Williams, said her daughter didn't want to lose her only son.

Williams said Strong told his mother, "Mom, you should just adopt another kid."

Family and friends said Strong wanted to be a Marine since he was a child.

Strong's parents were told that he died when his platoon was ambushed during a routine patrol.

He was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division from Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Strong was on his second tour in Iraq.

Spc. Alexandre A. Alexeev Among Five Soldiers Killed Monday



Alexeev

06/02/2007 By Josh Grossberg, Staff writer, The Press Telegram [Excerpts]

They never met, never spoke on the telephone, had virtually nothing in common.

But in a yearlong exchange of e-mails between a Northern California mother and a young Wilmington resident who died in Iraq last week, a portrait emerged of a shy man who enjoyed ice hockey, relished the small gifts she sent him and loved his adopted country.

"We just kind of communicated about stuff," said Rose Ramirez-Latham about 23-year-old Spc. Alexandre A. Alexeev, a native of Russia who was among five soldiers killed Monday when their vehicle was struck by a makeshift bomb in the city of Abu Sayda. "We just kept it positive."

Alexeev was 14 when his family left Russia and moved to Hawthorne, said his longtime friend Dan Corbei. He graduated from Hawthorne High School in 2002. His family bought a house in Wilmington about two years ago.

"He was a good guy, really smart," said Corbei, a Torrance resident. "He was a really sharp kid who made the most of everything."

For fun, the two would go clubbing and listen to music.

"He loved online gaming, techno music and working with computers," Corbei said.

Corbei said his friend hoped to become a citizen, which is why he joined the military. He didn't enjoy being overseas, but liked making friends with local children.

Although she knew he was proud to serve his country, Ramirez-Latham said Alexeev couldn't wait for his time overseas to come to an end.

"All I can think about is being back home and enjoying a normal life," he wrote.

Family Grieves For Fallen Soldier

June, 3, 2007 By Sarah Zopfi Hubbard, The Herald-Dispatch

SOUTH POINT, Ohio -- A family is grieving over the loss of Chief Warrant Officer Theodore "Tuc" Church, who was killed on Memorial Day when his helicopter crashed in Iraq, and hope to honor him later this week with a memorial at South Point High School.

Church's family said he was a guiding light for his wife, Mindi, and his children, Maryn and Dorian.

And while they want the community to remember and honor their fallen family member, they said it has been hard coming out and talking about him the past few days.

“Tuc was his children’s unshakable force and his wife’s ballast,” said Mariesha Watters, Church’s sister-in-law. “He was a loyal, kind friend and when you looked into his eyes you saw a gentle, playful guy who would take a dare and then take time off to read a story to his son or blow-dry his daughter’s hair.”

Church was 32 years old. He was born on February 16, 1975, and raised in South Point. He graduated from South Point High School in 1993 and joined the U.S. Navy right out of high school and after four years, he joined the Army. This year marked his eighth year in the Army.

“Tuc loved motorcycles and cars. He loved to travel,” said Renee Culver, a cousin. “His first ‘son’ was a three-legged boxer pup named Gixer, who he liked to wrestle with. He made every Fourth of July a celebration with fireworks that rivaled the ones set off at major tourist attractions. He was a big joker who got away with anything because he looked so blue-eyed and innocent.”

There will be a memorial service at South Point High School late this week, although an official date has not been set.

“A tragedy like this, like all the tragedies of war, link together the personal and the political,” Culver said. “And the eyes of a nation turn to you to watch how the grieving process works, but that’s a big burden to shoulder.”

Church will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 20, along with others who gave their life in service to their country.

The Church family has asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in his name to one of the following organizations:

B Troop FRG (Family Readiness Group) c/o Lacey Graves 95-1021 Ohiaha Street, Mililani, HI 96789

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc., 910 17th Street, NW Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006 or online at www.taps.org/contributions/donate.aspx.

Young Soldier’s Life Cut Short



6/1/2007 By: Narmeen Choudhury, TWEAN News Channel of Syracuse

“My greatest fear? Losing one of my soldiers in Iraq,” Staff Sgt. Joseph Weiglein said.

That was Staff Sgt. Joseph Weiglein six months ago speaking to students at his hometown elementary school in New Jersey. Friends say his response to the curious questions of nearly 250 students that day was hardly surprising because Joseph had always put himself before others.

“He wanted to do something, I think, for the country, for everybody,” Joseph’s father Mike Weiglein said.

“If he found out we were crying right now, he probably wouldn’t like it because he wanted us all to laugh and remember the good times and not feel sad over what happened. That was just the type of person that he was,” said Nicole Crosby, a friend of Jennifer and Joseph Weiglein.

Joseph’s wife worked here in Syracuse. In order to stay better connected, she and her coworkers put together care packages for Joseph’s unit in Iraq. Now, they look back and remember the good times they shared while he was home just a few short months ago.

Just about a week shy of his 32nd birthday, Joseph’s family was notified of his death; he was killed by a bomb while on patrol in southern Baghdad.

“We just never thought it would be him, and when it was, it was just a big shock,” Crosby said.

“When you see somebody like that just so young and so strong and has so much to offer, you just can never really come to grips with it,” said Joe Mocciano, a friend of Jennifer and Joseph Weiglein.

“We’re proud that he grew up into the man he became,” Mike Weiglein said.

Joseph was expected to return home in November just two months after he and his wife were to celebrate their fifth anniversary.

Jennifer Weiglein is now in New Jersey with Joseph’s family to determine funeral arrangements.

Lundin: A Newlywed Who Believed In His Job In Iraq

June 2, 2007 BY SUSANA ENRIQUEZ AND ANDREW STRICKLER, Newsday Inc.

James Lundin didn’t think that mothers and fathers should be fighting the war in Iraq. So six months before his 18th birthday, the Bellport resident joined the Army.

“He said, ‘It should be young guys like me who go,’” said his father, Rick Lundin.

Spc. James Lundin was killed in Baghdad on Wednesday along with two other soldiers when the Humvee he was traveling in was hit by a bomb, the Defense Department said. He was 20.

Lundin, who was deployed in September, was a gunner on a Humvee and worked with Iraqi police.

He is the 25th Long Islander to die in the Iraq war.

“He liked his job,” said Rick Lundin, 52, of Bellport. “He believed in what he was doing.”

Lundin didn’t talk much about his duties, said his wife, Kristy Lundin, 20.

“Even as bad as it was, he always said he was fine,” she said. “I don’t think he wanted me to worry.”

The Lundin family moved to Long Island seven years ago from the San Juan Islands in Washington state.

Lundin, an only child, attended Bellport middle and high schools and enjoyed drawing, skating and snowboarding, his father said.

He was also a brave person and a risk-taker who liked driving fast, his wife said. When he was home in January, he bought a yellow Honda S2000, which he had planned to soup up.

On Friday, his parents, who found out about his death late Thursday after returning from a trip to Arizona, were watching a video of him and his father skydiving on a recent trip home.

Lundin attended Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead, where he finished his high school credits and met his wife.

The young couple met as they both waited for rides home. He initiated the conversation and asked her what she liked to do for fun.

“I said, ‘I like to play video games.’ He said, ‘Marry me,’” said Kristy Lundin, who grew up in Patchogue and now lives with her in-laws.

The couple dated for a brief time before he joined the military.

After being apart for some time, they reconnected and made the spontaneous decision to get married, she said.

The couple had a proxy wedding in January and had planned a formal wedding for June 30. When his tour was extended, they rescheduled it for November, she said.

After meeting Lundin in January, Maria Hand, Kristy's aunt and godmother, told her that he was a "keeper."

"He was so sweet and so attentive to Kristy," said Hand, of Riverhead.

A Soldier's Duty: Pembroke GI Felt Need To Serve

June 2, 2007 By Jessica Van Sack, Boston Herald

Army Pfc. Matthew Bean was remembered by relatives yesterday as a man with a strict moral code and a fervent patriot who believed that fighting for his country was the right thing to do.

"He was a strong moral person who stood up for the right things," said his brother, Timothy Bean, 19. "He was really my inspiration."

Matthew Bean was moved to enlist after another Pembroke native, Marine 1st Lt. Brian McPhillips, 25, died in April 2003, when Bean was a senior at Silver Lake Regional High School.

"He felt that he needed to go and help," said Bean's mother, Mary Brennan.

Bean, 22, was doing just that when he died, helping to search for another Bay State soldier, Alex R. Jimenez, 23, of Lawrence, abducted by insurgents in Iraq last month.

Brennan said her son's comrades told her he was shot in the head by what they described as a sniper's "armor-piercing bullet," which penetrated his helmet.

"Our heart goes out to that family and we pray for that family," said Wendy Luzon, a spokeswoman for the Jimenez family.

"Too many families are losing their kids - it's like it just doesn't end."

Brennan said her son was close to his family, including his father, Dana, and his stepparents, stepbrother and stepsister.

He also leaves a fiancée, Sarah O'Neil, 21, of Yarmouthport.

"He knew immediately she was the one," Brennan said.

His half-sister, Molly, 6, "was the light of his life," she said. "He treated her like a princess. He spoiled her."

He had bought Molly a mini-electric guitar, like the one he enjoyed playing. Relatives said he was a "phenomenal" musician who would often jam with his brother and play tunes by the band Sublime.

On the shy, quiet side, Bean didn't like controversy, and he would often tell his family that he was safe and not to worry about him.

"When I spoke to him on Friday he kept changing the subject and saying, " 'How are things at home?' 'How's Molly?' " Brennan said.

Relatives said Bean enjoyed the outdoors and had little use for computers and electronics. He worked as a landscaper for several months before enlisting in the Army.

Brennan said her son was an organ donor, a fitting legacy.

"Even in death, he's helping people," she said.

Slain Soldier Remembered For Lifting Others' Spirits



Staff Sgt. Thomas Michael McFall, 36.

06/03/2007 By Wendy Leung, Staff Writer, Daily Bulletin

A career U.S. Army soldier, who spent his early years in Pomona and Claremont, is being remembered fondly by those who knew him.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Michael McFall, 36, was killed in Iraq by an improvised explosive device near Baghdad on May 28, Memorial Day.

McFall spent 12 years in the Army, including one year deployed in Afghanistan. He was a decorated soldier, having won numerous awards including three Army commendation medals and four Army achievement medals.

"He's my hero, obviously," said McFall's father, Thomas A. McFall.

Born in Pomona, McFall spent his childhood years in Claremont going to Condit Elementary and El Roble Intermediate schools. Later he moved to Riverside and attended Poly High School.

Friends and relatives describe McFall as a guy who always tried to lift everybody's spirits. At the age of 36, he was a father figure to the younger soldiers.

"If he didn't have a serious side when it comes to the military, you would think he's a clown," said his father. "He was a joy to be around."

Ociel Leyva of Tustin, who served in Afghanistan with McFall as his squad leader, called him "fun and outgoing."

"He had his job down to a T," said Leyva. "Everybody respected him."

McFall was with another soldier, Cpl. Junior Cedeno Sanchez, 20, who also died when the improvised explosive device detonated during a foot patrol.

Their deaths occurred during the third deadliest month for the U.S. since the invasion began.

McFall is survived by his wife, Emily, and three children, Austin, 15; Elizabeth, 6; and Matthew, 3.

In a written statement, Emily McFall said her husband's heart beat "red, white and blue."

"He always had a story to tell you, and sometimes they would take forever but you listened because he had that kind of hold on you, you wanted to know how it ended. ... He made me and a lot of other people better just by knowing him."

Family members are finalizing funeral services to be held at Riverside Memorial Cemetery next week.

Young Central Coast Soldier Killed in Iraq

Jun 6, 2007 Katie Haynes, KCOY

SANTA MARIA-- Sgt. Shawn Dressler, of Santa Maria, died when an improvised explosive device blew up near his vehicle in Baghdad three days ago.

Sgt. Dressler's wife, Amanda, posted a message to her husband this evening on his MySpace page, "I still can't believe you're gone. It's been a few days since I found out and I'm just shattered."

Rudy Sanchez grew up on the same street in Santa Maria with Dressler.

“Ha, we were just playing baseball out here you know? Watching him and his dad playing catch. Me and my cousin go jump in. He told me before he enlisted he was think about joining the Army and I said that’s great you know. Support him 100%. And when he finally joined it was exciting. He was excited,” says Sanchez.

For Sanchez the casualties of war are not about the numbers but names.

“I got an uncle going over there. I’ve got a cousin going. I’ve got a cousin over there right now. It’s always, you know you don’t want to hear that call. It is hard,” says Sanchez.

On his MySpace site Dressler listed his interests as hunting and fishing.

But he was devoted to Amanda his new wife. At the Dressler home a window still bares the red, white and blue.

“Good hard working American family. It’s sad. I know every time. This is his second or third tour over there right now,” Sanchez told us.

And on this street in Santa Maria one home is now without a son as a community is without another of its heros.

“His family supported him. Everybody even my grandparents. They said good luck and basically thank you for doing this for our country,” says Sanchez.

Dressler graduated from Santa Maria High in the spring of 2002. While in school Dressler was active with the Future Farmers of America.

Sgt. Dressler was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Resistance Gets Another Bridge

Jun 13 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer

Iraqi police said suspected militants blew up part of a bridge in northern Iraq in the country’s fourth bridge attack in as many days.

Wednesday’s bridge attack targeted the Zikaytoon overpass southwest of Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad. Suspected insurgents planted explosives under the bridge, and the blast went off around 6 a.m., said police Brig. Sarhat Qader. Part of the bridge was destroyed, but no one was injured, Qader said.

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME**

NOW



U.S. armoured vehicles patrol a road in Baghdad January 16, 2007. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

N.C. Native Dies In Helicopter Crash In Afghanistan

06/02/2007 Associated Press

A standout high school athlete from Transylvania County was among the five 82nd Airborne Division soldiers killed when a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in Afghanistan this past week, his father said.

Staff Sgt. Charlie Bagwell was killed when the helicopter went down Wednesday in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province, his father, Lane Bagwell, told the Asheville Citizen-Times.

"You know the risks when they go," said Lane Bagwell, who was told of his son's death Thursday by a visiting chaplain and another officer from Fort Bragg, where the 82nd is based. "You just think it isn't going to happen to you or yours. I knew there was always that possibility."

Bagwell, who last talked to his parents the day after Mother's Day, was a quiet man, his father said. "But he said he had some stories to tell us when he got back," Lane Bagwell said.

Lane Bagwell said the Fort Bragg officials told him Thursday that the helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Bagwell served in Iraq in 2005 and had been in Afghanistan since later that year. He was a mechanic and crew chief assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-82, which is built around the 82nd's 4th Brigade Combat Team.

Bagwell is also survived by an 8-year-old son; his mother, Judith; and sister, Sarah.

At Rosman High School, Bagwell played junior varsity basketball and varsity football. His classmates voted him most athletic in 1997, his senior year.

"I've coached a lot of kids, but Charlie's one you ain't going to forget," said Dan Essenberg, Rosman's football coach. "He wasn't blessed with tremendous speed, but he was a hardworking kid."

Foreign Occupation Soldier & Mercenary Captured By Resistance In Sangin

June 13, 2007 RFE/RL, Inc & Khaleej Times

Reports say a soldier serving with the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan and a civilian from the United Arab Emirates are both missing in Afghanistan.

Taliban militants claim to have captured the coalition soldier in the Sangin district of southern Helmand Province. Helmand has been the scene of fierce fighting for several months.

Coalition spokesman Chris Belcher said an investigation is under way.

The other missing foreigner was described as a member of a team providing security for aid projects. It was not clear when he disappeared.

Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said the movement had captured a foreign soldier in uniform in the Sangin district of volatile southern Helmand province on Tuesday.

'One NATO force soldier with a uniform and gun was captured by our mujahedeen (holy warriors),' Ahmadi told AFP by telephone from an unknown location.

Brain-Dead General Of The Year, So Far

"Musa Qala is just another town in Afghanistan where the Taliban have control. It's not unique." British Brigadier John Lorimer, the one-star general who commands NATO's forces in Afghanistan's Helmand province, quoted by Peter Graff, June 14, Reuters News Service

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The coffin containing the body of U.S. Army Pfc. Junior Cedeno Sanchez during his funeral in La Romana, Dominican Republic, June 10, 2007. Sanchez was killed by a Baghdad bomb on May 28 in Iraq. His body returned to the Caribbean city where he was born for military honors and a heartbroken farewell. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

“Defend Australia From U.S. War Games”

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

June 08, 2007 GreenLeft discussion [Excerpts]

Dear Friends,

Melbourne meeting “Defend Australia from US War Games” was a resounding success. We counted about 110-120 people at the meeting (overwhelming majority were people not usually seen at regular activists’ meetings/activities) and all speakers were a huge success with the audience.

Several people approached me congratulating us on organising this important meeting, the format of the meeting and the quality of speakers.

People were requesting continuing information/education meetings/activities.

Inclusion of brief statements from the Japanese, Filipino and Latin American speakers was inspiring and offered positive illustrations of ordinary people's struggles against US military bases and American military activities in the region.

Congratulations to all.
In solidarity
Shirley Winton
Spirit of Eureka Committee

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“OUT, OUT OCCUPIERS” [GET THE MESSAGE?]



Iraqi citizens burn a U.S. flag in Baghdad's Sadr City June 14, 2007. Protesters denounced the presence of the U.S. military in the country, which they say led to the sectarian violence and the bombings of Samarra's Golden Mosque.

“Out, out occupiers,” the Sadr City protesters chanted, in reference to U.S. forces.
[Reuters: Paul Tait]

Assorted Resistance Action; Casualties Inside Green Zone

Jun 13 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & Agence France Presse & Jun 14, 2007 DPA & By Paul Tait, Reuters & By Sameer N. Yacoub, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mortar bombs and rockets landed in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, Reuters reporters said. Smoke could be seen billowing into the sky. A resident at the Rashid Hotel in the Green Zone said one mortar round fell in the hotel courtyard, killing one employee and wounding several. The hotel is home to some members of parliament, journalists and foreign contractors.

A witness inside the zone, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his job, said about half a dozen mortar rounds fell in the area. The U.S. military said it had no immediate information about the attack. [Right. Can't expect the command to have any information about an attack on its own headquarters.]

A bomber wounded three policemen and three soldiers in the town of Riyadh, 60 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

Six Iraqis were seriously wounded in an attack Thursday north-west of Kirkuk city, Iraqi Independent News Agency reported citing an official source in Kirkuk police.

The attacker attempted to enter the Kirkuk municipality building in the afternoon. When the security guards stopped him for inspection, he blew himself up injuring three policemen, two national security guards and one civilian, the source added.

A bomber blew himself up at a police station near the Iranian border, killing five Iraqi policemen and wounding 10, the town's mayor said.

The Government-owned [collaborator] al-Sabah newspaper issued a news release saying that its editor-in-chief, Flayeh Wadi Mijdab, had been captured. He was ambushed Mijdab in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday morning as he was heading to work, police said. His 25-year-old son and driver were left behind, police added.

Four Iraqi policemen were killed and 11 officers wounded by a car bomber targeting their checkpoint outside Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad.

A bomb targeting the police chief of the town of Mandili killed five of his bodyguards and wounded five other people, including the police chief, police said. Mandili is in Dilyala Province, near the Iranian border.

Guerrillas killed three policemen and set their vehicle on fire near Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

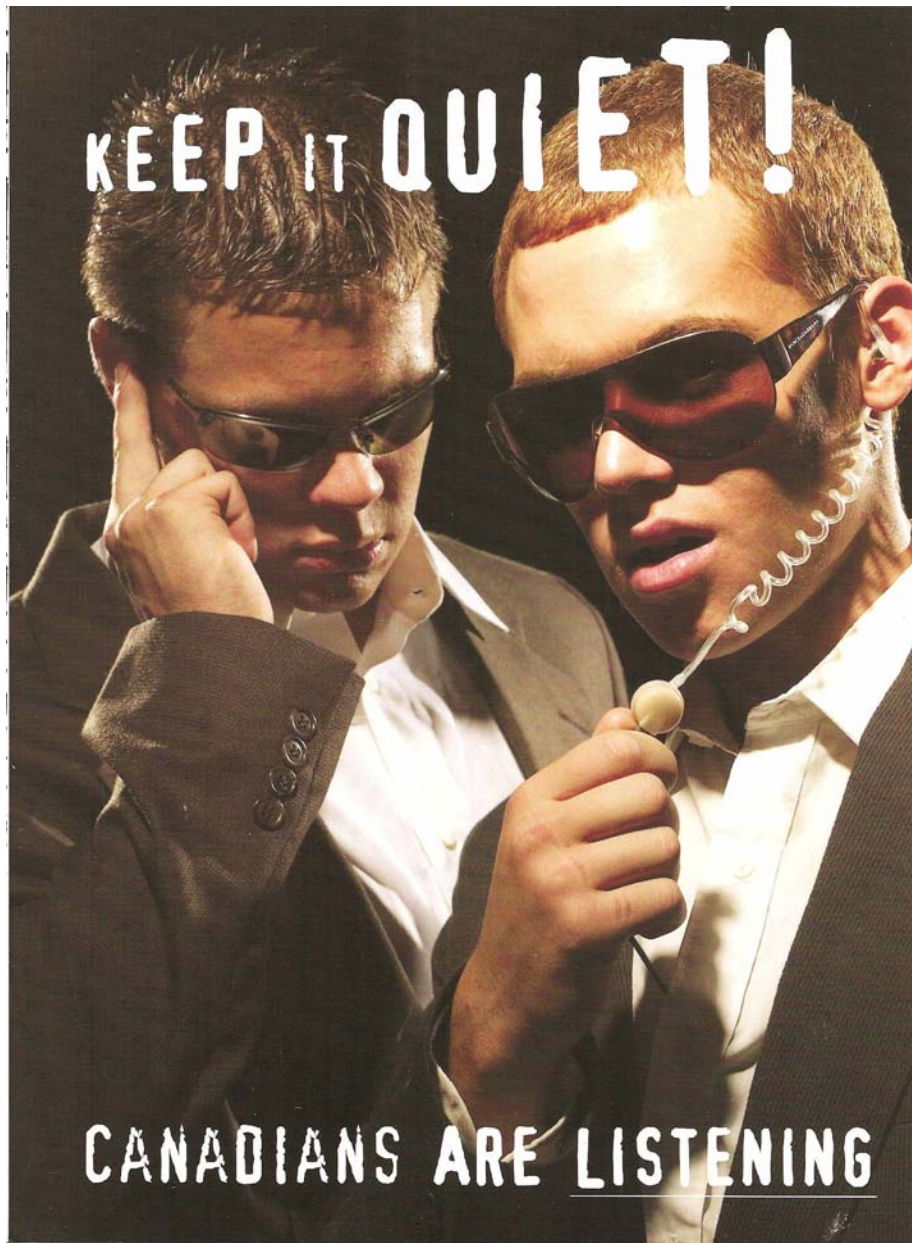
One soldier was killed and eight wounded on Tuesday when a truck laden with chlorine exploded near an Iraqi army base in the town of Khan Bani Saad, about 30 km (20 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed two off-duty policemen in central Diwaniya, 180 km south of Baghdad, police said.

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed and an officer wounded in a roadside bomb attack on their patrol in Mussayab, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



[Photo by James Patrick Dawson, XY Magazine]

“They Did To Other Native Populations - The Vietnamese, The Iraqis - What Was Done To Them And Their Ancestors”

Jun 13, 2007 Kristen Scharnberg, Chicago Tribune [Excerpt]

Clinicians who work with American Indian veterans report hearing them struggle with feelings that they did to other native populations - the Vietnamese, the Iraqis - what was done to them and their ancestors.

“Identification with the enemy is something that has plagued minority vets for generations,” said Michelle Kierstead, an Indian PTSD social worker at the V.A. Medical Center in Prescott.

“They talk about a government on the outside imposing its will. They see children in places like Iraq that look like the children on their own reservations - dark-skinned and impoverished. They see themselves in them, and I believe this contributes to their high rates of PTSD.”

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION REPORT

**U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING
DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;
RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED
RESISTANCE THAT IS**



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 10th Mountain Division invade an Iraqi citizens home in the middle of the night near Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad April 21, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong (IRAQ)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Collaborator Tribal Coalition In Anbar Crumbling

June 11, 2007 By Joshua Partlow and John Ward Anderson, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

In an interview in his Baghdad office, Ali Hatem Ali Suleiman, 35, a leader of the Dulaim confederation, the largest tribal organization in Anbar, said that the Anbar Salvation Council would be dissolved because of growing internal dissatisfaction over its cooperation with U.S. soldiers and the behavior of the council's most prominent member, Abdul Sattar Abu Risha.

Suleiman called Abu Risha a "traitor" who "sells his beliefs, his religion and his people for money."

Abu Risha, who enjoys the support of U.S. military commanders, denied the allegations and said the council is not at risk of breaking apart.

Lt. Col. Richard D. Welch, a U.S. military official who works closely with the tribal leaders in Iraq, said that relations inside the group were strained and that he expected a complete overhaul of the coalition in coming days.

But the divisions within the coalition underscore what many see as a central dilemma: Should the United States be sponsoring profit-oriented tribal groups that involve themselves in sometimes fragile alliances and that could turn against U.S. troops?

"The question with a group like this always is, does it stay bought?" said Anthony H. Cordesman, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, referring to suggestions that the United States is paying for loyalty from the tribes.

Eight policemen loyal to tribal leaders in the Anbar Salvation Council said in interviews that the U.S. military was giving them weapons, money and other materials such as uniforms, body armor, helmets and pickup trucks. In addition, the United States was paying salaries of up to \$900 a month to tribal fighters, they said.

Col. Steve Boylan, a spokesman for Petraeus, said that supplies and funding for the police force came from the Iraqi government's Interior Ministry. "They may think they're getting paid by us because we're working with them so heavily," he said.

"The Iraqi government has abandoned us, and we have received nothing from them except promises," said Col. Abdul Salam al-Reeshawi, head of a neighborhood police center. "More than 90 percent of the weapons and supplies come from the American forces, beginning with personal pistols and ending with medium machine guns and rocket launchers."

"When the Americans were sure of our intentions in exterminating al-Qaeda terrorists, they backed us up with weapons, cars and money," said Col. Ahmad Hamad al-Dulaimi, another top police officer in Ramadi.

"Without the American forces, we couldn't do anything worth mentioning."

"We take our current orders from the American Army, and we are connected to them by a center well known as the JCC," said Dulaimi, the senior police official in Ramadi. He was referring to joint coordination centers, which are U.S.-Iraqi military groups set up at the local level to monitor Iraqi security forces.

But lower-ranking members said they took their orders from tribal leaders, saying that was where their loyalties lie.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Government Elected By Palestinians To Rule Palestine Takes Control Of Part Of Palestine; Traitors Backed By U.S. & Zionist Terror State Defeated In Gaza

June 14, 2007 By STEVEN ERLANGER, The New York Times [Excerpts]

JERUSALEM, June 13 — Hamas forces consolidated control over much of Gaza on Wednesday, taking command of the main north-south road and blowing up a Fatah headquarters in Khan Yunis, in the south.

In northern Gaza and Gaza City, Hamas military men, many of them in black masks, moved unchallenged through the streets as Fatah fighters ran short of arms and ammunition and abandoned their posts. Hamas controlled all of Gaza City except for the presidential compound of Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah and the Suraya headquarters of the National Security Forces, the Palestinian army. Hamas has surrounded Al Suraya, calling on the occupants to surrender.

The powerful Hamas move to exert authority in Gaza, and the poor performance and motivation of the larger security forces supposedly loyal to Fatah, raised troubling questions for Mr. Abbas and Israel, and left the White House with a dwindling menu of policy options.

Mr. Abbas faces the collapse of Fatah power in Gaza and a putative Palestinian state divided into a West Bank run by Fatah and a Gaza run by Hamas.

Hamas spokesmen said the movement had no political goal except to defend itself from a group within Fatah collaborating with Israel and the United States. They said they wanted to bring the security forces under the control of the unity government, in which Fatah agreed to play a part until the current fighting.

Since the election victory of Hamas in January 2006, the United States and Israel have worked to isolate and damage Hamas and build up Fatah with recognition and weaponry.

In Wednesday's clashes in Gaza City, Hamas took over the Awdah building, a tall apartment complex where many Fatah leaders lived, causing another Fatah leader, Maher Miqdad, to flee with his family, after at least eight Fatah men were killed. Hamas also took over and burned the main police station, another symbol of Fatah power, and surrounded the main national security headquarters building, Al Suraya.

In northern Gaza, Hamas gave fighters in isolated Fatah military headquarters until Friday at 7 p.m. to surrender their weapons.

In Khan Yunis, Hamas detonated a large bomb in a tunnel under the headquarters of Fatah's Preventive Security, an elite paramilitary force, killing at least one of those inside and wounding eight more.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, said the movement was defending itself, not reaching for unalloyed power.

"There is no political goal behind this but to defend our movement and force these security groups to behave," Mr. Zuhri said in an interview.

He insisted that "Hamas did not initiate these attacks, but it was pushed to do so to end crimes by the factions inside Fatah who favor a coup." He said Hamas "is doing the work that Fatah failed to do, to control these groups," whom he accused of crimes, chaos and collaboration with Israel and the United States.

Mr. Zuhri said the United States should "sit with the movement at the dialogue table on the basis of mutual respect, respecting the elections."

Abdullah al-Aqad, 28, of Khan Yunis, said he joined the national security forces to have a job. He marveled at the speed of the Hamas advance. "We are 70,000 P.A. soldiers, and where are they all?" he asked. "And facing 10,000 Hamas soldiers."

While Fatah blamed Hamas for the crisis, an Israeli analyst of Palestinian affairs, Danny Rubinstein, said the "primary reason for the break-up is the fact that Fatah has refused to fully share the Palestinian Authority's mechanism of power with its rival Hamas, despite Hamas's decisive victory in the January 2006 general elections."

Fatah "was forced to overrule Palestinian voters because the entire world demanded it do so," Mr. Rubinstein added. "Matters have come to the point where Hamas attempted to take by force what they believe they rightfully deserve."

"But These Killings Are Normal"

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

June 3, 2007 The Observer [Excerpts]

Sarah Helm set off by car to see Palestinians in Jenin but soon found that her road map was of no use. In the four decades after the Six-Day War, a labyrinth of walls, unmarked roads and checkpoints has arisen, hiding whole towns from Israeli eyes

'Jenin? you want to go to Jenin?', asked a Palestinian villager, standing near an unmanned Israeli roadblock somewhere in the northern West Bank. The villager scratched his head as if surprised to hear the city's name, although we could not have been more than five miles away as the crow flies. 'It's a problem', he said.

'Where exactly is it? Which direction?' I asked anxiously.

Having circled the area for so long, I had lost my bearings.

I was last in Jenin - due north of Jerusalem beyond the Palestinian cities of Ramallah and Nablus - five years ago to write about a suicide bomber who killed himself and 15 Israelis, including a family of five, in a Jerusalem pizzeria.

Back then Jenin was still on the map.

But now this city of nearly 36,000 Palestinians seemed to have disappeared. In fact, apart from my villager friend, I had hardly seen a Palestinian since entering the West Bank.

I first came to the West Bank as a correspondent in the early 1990s, during the upsurge of hope after the Oslo accords that promised an end to the Israeli occupation in exchange for Arab peace.

Today as Israel celebrates the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Six-Day War which saw the occupation begin with Israeli troops taking Gaza and the West Bank (then under Jordanian control), hopes of withdrawal from the West Bank seem fanciful.

Now the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the West Bank are separated into enclaves by checkpoints, and, more recently, encircled by an 8m-high wall and fence.

Not only can Israelis nowadays not 'see' Palestinians any more, but to all intents and purposes whole Palestinian cities have disappeared.

Journeying through the West Bank my own disorientation began from the moment I set out from Jerusalem. At first I tried to leave the city by one of my old routes, but just before the Arab suburb of Abu Dis I ran into the Wall. 'Warsaw ghetto/Abu Dis ghetto' was emblazoned on the wall at this point and my friends were quite unreachable on the other side.

Turning away from the Wall, a network of Israeli roads, built for Jewish settlers, appeared to offer a swift alternative and I was soon being whisked through a new tunnel

under the Mount of Olives, finding my way out towards the West Bank, where Jewish settlements now ring Jerusalem, crowding hilltops as far as the eye can see.

These new settler roads were once viewed - like the settlements themselves - as 'obstacles to peace', not only because they carve into Arab land but also because, with their 50m buffer zones on either side, they divide the West Bank into separate Palestinian cantons.

Today, however, nobody uses such outdated language as 'obstacles to peace'. The Jerusalem 'settlements' are 'new neighbourhoods'.

Firmly part of the West Bank landscape, the settler roads are now used by Israelis and foreigners alike, as they are fast and safe, connecting to the Israeli hub of Tel Aviv.

Residents of Ariel, a new town of pink roofs and green lawns, no longer drive through parched Arab lands behind wire mesh but speed instead in bright saloons, reaching Ben Gurion airport in under an hour. And why should they know anything about what happens in Palestinian towns and villages around them? They could be forgiven for wondering if they were in West Bank at all.

Even foreign diplomats, who lost their 'road map' to peace long ago, now favour these new roads, as they make it easier to get about.

To even talk of a 'peace process' is now outmoded; instead the diplomats talk about 'the situation' and 'the narrative'. A US diplomat in Jerusalem had told me confidently before I left for Jenin that 'the narrative' of 'the situation' today was 'quite clear to all sides'.

Somewhere on the road north, however, I completely lost the plot.

I turned to my new UN map of the West Bank, which meticulously traced even the roughest of Palestinian roads and marked every boundary, including the 1967 old Green Line, separating Israel from the West Bank. The UN map also marked the new Israeli barrier, but none of this was any help because it showed not a single West Bank settler road, so it was impossible to see how or where the two networks might intersect. I tried holding the UN map next to an Israeli map, but the two would not join.

Suddenly I realised that I didn't even know if I was in the West Bank or Israel proper.

A mile or so away I had seen a stretch of the Israeli barrier, here an electric fence with trenches, running through a fertile valley. But I knew that the fence did not follow the old 1967 Green Line but encroached far into the West Bank. So was I in some kind of eerie no man's land in between the new fence and the Green Line?

So I tried to get into Jenin another way.

An Israeli army spokesman in Jerusalem had spoken of another checkpoint at a place called Rehan, but that too seemed to be unmarked on any map. Reached by phone, the same spokesman now offered to find out where this checkpoint was but called back to say that even army HQ did not have a clue. I turned round and headed southeast towards where I hoped Jenin might be. Another checkpoint suddenly loomed ahead of me.

'Jenin?' asked an Israeli soldier. It was somewhere 'over there', he thought, though he seemed unsure.

But taking in a car could be a problem. I knew it was impossible to drive into Gaza nowadays, but then, already separated from the West Bank by Israel proper, it is now severed from the outside world.

'You shouldn't be going in there at all, you know,' continued the Israeli soldier, apparently with my safety in mind. 'It's tough in there. There have been a lot of operations lately.'

I knew about the 'operations', I said.

In one an ambulance driver had been beaten up at a checkpoint like this, and in another a Palestinian taxi driver had been shot dead by Israeli undercover soldiers in broad daylight.

I had an appointment to see the families but was now running very late. Then suddenly the soldier changed his mind. His shift was over, he said, and smiling broadly added: 'I'm out of here.' Before leaving, he waved me on through the barrier and clambered into an APC, which headed off the other way.

'Welcome, welcome,' said Fahima Mansour, 67, mother of the Jenin ambulance driver I had come to see. I had finally entered the city in late afternoon to find that the people of Jenin had not, after all, been spirited away. Everything was as it had ever been - the jostling crowds and traffic jams - and I began to get my bearings again.

Rebuilt since the Israeli assault of 2002, the Jenin refugee camp walls were plastered with posters of suicide bombers and other 'martyrs'. I just recognised Izzidin al-Masri, the 2001 Jerusalem pizzeria bomber, whose story had last brought me here.

But his poster was now overlaid with many more. Underneath these posters, boys were sitting talking or staring with empty eyes into mobile phones. Some were watching videos of the latest Jenin martyr's death.

'Today we are in a prison,' Fahima said, now allowing her son to describe how he had been beaten up at a checkpoint while driving doctors and nurses to a village.

I then set off to the Kabatia road where Ashraf Haneishe, a Jenin taxi driver, was recently shot dead by Israeli soldiers disguised as Arabs.

Mohammed Nazzal, 42, owner of a nearby garage and Ashraf's cousin, said he had heard shots and ran out to see Ashraf being dragged from his taxi and pumped with bullets in the knees, as his two passengers watched in shock. Then Ashraf was dragged to cypress trees by the road where, still alive, he was shot again and killed.

Mohammed picked up his mobile phone, flicked opened the screen and thrust it in front of me. I found myself peering at a video of Ashraf's bloodstained body lolling around in a moving car as he was rushed to Jenin hospital.

The Israelis later said Ashraf was a 'terrorist' in the al-Aqsa Brigades but Mohammed said al-Aqsa claims these people after the event 'for the propaganda'.

Mohammed let Ashraf drive his young family around, which he would not have done if his cousin was 'wanted'. In any event, why not arrest him after blasting his knees? Instead the 25-year-old was finished off in a ditch.

'But these killings are normal,' said Mohammed.

At Ashraf's home, his brother, Maher, cradled Ashraf's daughter Yasmin, aged two. Was Ashraf in the al-Aqsa Brigades, I asked? On the door was an al-Aqsa martyr's poster claiming him as theirs. The poster had superimposed Ashraf's boyish face on one of their standard martyr's posters. It didn't seem to me to fit.

His brother glanced at the poster and shrugged as if to disown it.

'We all know now how those posters are made,' he said with a look of utter despair. 'This was an execution, and that is all.'

He said 'lies' had been printed in the Israeli press, claiming Ashraf had pulled a gun. At my side another mobile phone was flicked open. Maher had used still photographs of his brother's body as a screen saver.

It was getting dark and the checkpoint was about to close for the night.

An hour later I was speeding back past the lights of Tel Aviv, wondering if Jenin, like Gaza, could ever be entirely cut off.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

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